

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to receiving a first action on the merits.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, new claims 10-29 will be pending in this application. The new claims are fully supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Preliminary Amendment.

Early and favorable action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited.

If additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033972.549252.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: Robert G. Weilacher; Reg. No. 20,531

For Robert G. Weilacher, Reg. No. 20,531
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 659-2811
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

Dated: March 22, 2005